



NCDOT Reminds Motorists to Keep Alert for Deer During Fall Months



As the temperature starts dropping and leaves start falling,

another sign of the changing season is more deer along North Carolina roadways and in turn, a greater chance of hitting a deer.

Between 2012 and 2014, nearly half of the 58,372 animal-related crashes in the state took place from October through December. About 90 percent of those involved deer.

A new N.C. Department of Transportation study shows there were 17,831 animal-related crashes in 2014 - the lowest number since 2006. But over the past three years, animal-related crashes claimed 11 lives, injured 3,386 drivers and passengers and caused nearly \$145 million in damages.

The top five counties with animal-related crashes reported last year in North Carolina include:

Wake: 794
Pitt: 562
Guilford: 550
Duplin: 445
Randolph: 444

Find out where your county stacks up.

U.S. 70 Goldsboro Bypass Western Section Now Open

On Saturday, Oct. 17, NCDOT opened the western section of the U.S. 70 Goldsboro Bypass to traffic.

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The 5.9-mile-long western section of the bypass runs from U.S. 70 just west of N.C. 581, east to Interstate 795. It then connects with the first section of the bypass that opened in 2011, currently signed as N.C. 44.



A \$62.4 million contract was awarded to S.T. Wooten in July 2012 for the construction of this four-lane divided highway.

The U.S. 70 Goldsboro Bypass is a three-part project estimated to cost a total of \$246 million. Once complete, the 20-mile bypass will span from U.S. 70 just west of N.C. 581 in Wayne County to U.S. 70 just east of Promise Land Road in Lenoir County.

The eastern section of the bypass, which will run from Wayne Memorial Drive to U.S. 70 in Lenoir County, is currently scheduled for completion in summer 2016. Until this section opens, U.S. 70 will remain the primary route for through traffic heading east through Goldsboro. All eastbound traffic using the new section of the bypass and N.C. 44 will have to exit at Wayne Memorial Drive.

For more information, check out the <u>U.S. 70 Goldsboro Bypass</u> project website.

Board Approves Allocation of Additional Funds for Highway and Bridge Maintenance and Preservation

The recently passed state budget will allow NCDOT to make a greater investment in taking care of and improving North Carolina's existing highways and bridges.

The General Assembly appropriated nearly \$500 million in additional funding in the two-year budget (for fiscal years 2016 and 2017) for maintenance and preservation work. NCDOT distributes these funds yearly to the divisions based on need.

The Board of Transportation approved each division's initial funding amount for Fiscal Year 2016 at its August meeting, and approved the additional funding at its October meeting.

Here's what that means for Division 4 for Fiscal Year 2016, which runs July 1, 2015, until June 30, 2016:

- An additional \$2.2 million was allocated to improve deficient bridges. This brings the division's total Bridge Program funding to \$6.5 million.
- An additional \$3.5 million was allocated for resurfacing, bringing the total funding for this type of work to \$29.7 million.
- An additional \$2.3 million was allocated for highway preservation, bringing the total funding for this type of work to \$6.6 million.
- An additional \$2.4 million was allocated for secondary roads, bringing the total funding for this type of work to \$17 million.

This will allow the division to accelerate work that had been planned for next fiscal year.

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